

News

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BLS 04-14

FOR RELEASE:

Friday, February 20, 2004

HONOLULU CONSUMER PRICES RISE 1.4 PERCENT IN THE SECOND HALF OF 2003 -- 2.9 PERCENT ABOVE A YEAR AGO

Consumer prices in the Honolulu metropolitan area rose 1.4 percent from the first half of 2003. Acting Regional Commissioner Nancy A. Treadwell said compared to the same period a year ago, prices increased 2.9 percent. The change in the all items index during the second half of 2003 for the nation was 2.0 percent, and up 1.8 for the West region. For Honolulu, movement in the shelter index was the driving force behind the increase.

The overall housing index rose 1.6 percent during the second half of 2003 and increased 3.2 percent from the same period in 2002. In the past six months, the shelter component was up 2.2 percent, while fuels and utilities decreased 2.4 percent, and household furnishings and operations decreased 1.8 percent. Compared to a year ago, shelter advanced 3.2 percent, fuels and utilities rose 3.4 percent, and household furnishings and operations increased 1.1 percent. The rate of change in the housing index has increased since the first half of 1999. Conversely, Honolulu's housing index had declined in the late '90's.

Food and beverages prices increased 1.3 percent in the second half of 2003. Grocery prices, as represented by the food at home index, advanced 1.7 percent in the past six months and prices paid for alcoholic beverages increased 2.1 percent in the same period. The price of food away from home decreased 0.1 percent in the past six months. From the same period 12 months ago, the overall food and beverages' index rose 2.6 percent.

The overall transportation index rose 1.4 percent in the second half of 2003 and measured 4.5 percent more than last year's level. Private transportation prices were 1.8 percent higher over the latest six-month period, and 5.2 percent higher over-the-year. Gasoline prices advanced 5.8 percent this semi-annual period. Honolulu drivers pay 19.4 percent more for gasoline than they did in the second half of 2002.

Recreation prices increased 2.2 percent in the past six months and 2.3 percent over the year.

The education and communication index increased 2.4 percent during the second half of 2003 and showed a 4.7 percent gain from a year ago.

The miscellaneous other goods and services index advanced 0.4 percent in the past six months and 0.9 percent over the year.

Apparel prices were the only major category to fall in the second half of 2003, down 1.4 percent. During the past 12 months, the apparel index declined 1.3 percent.

The area's Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) advanced to 185.7 (1982-84=100) during the second half of 2003. This means a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84 would have cost \$185.70 during the past six months. Local area CPI data are not seasonally adjusted.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods

Honolulu¹, HI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 2nd half 2003 from-	
	2nd half 2002	1st half 2003	2nd half 2003	2nd half 2002	1st half 2003
Expenditure category					
All items	180.4	183.2	185.7	2.9	1.4
All items (October 1967=100)	496.8	504.4	511.2	-	-
Food and beverages	171.6	173.7	176.0	2.6	1.3
Food	171.3	173.0	175.3	2.3	1.3
Food at home	175.5	177.2	180.2	2.7	1.7
Food away from home	165.2	167.2	167.1	1.2	-0.1
Alcoholic beverages	175.1	182.1	185.9	6.2	2.1
Housing	181.9	184.7	187.7	3.2	1.6
Shelter	196.3	198.2	202.5	3.2	2.2
Rent of primary residence	186.0	187.8	192.6	3.5	2.6
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ²	202.5	204.0	208.8	3.1	2.4
Fuels and utilities	147.2	156.0	152.2	3.4	-2.4
Fuels	130.2	140.1	135.4	4.0	-3.4
Gas (piped) and electricity	129.5	139.3	134.4	3.8	-3.5
Electricity	128.2	136.1	131.1	2.3	-3.7
Utility natural gas service	134.1	169.1	166.3	24.0	-1.7
Household furnishings and operations	159.6	164.2	161.3	1.1	-1.8
Apparel	99.1	99.2	97.8	-1.3	-1.4
Transportation	170.1	175.2	177.7	4.5	1.4
Private transportation	164.5	170.0	173.1	5.2	1.8
Motor fuel	133.3	150.4	158.7	19.1	5.5
Gasoline (all types)	136.5	154.0	163.0	19.4	5.8
Gasoline, unleaded regular ³	142.2	161.0	170.9	20.2	6.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4}	108.3	121.3	128.6	18.7	6.0
Gasoline, unleaded premium ³	126.1	141.6	148.3	17.6	4.7
Medical care	266.5	-	-	-	-
Recreation ⁵	99.2	99.3	101.5	2.3	2.2
Education and communication ⁵	108.7	111.1	113.8	4.7	2.4
Other goods and services	305.3	307.0	308.2	0.9	0.4

See footnotes at end of table.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods

Honolulu¹, HI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (Continued)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 2nd half 2003 from-	
	2nd half 2002	1st half 2003	2nd half 2003	2nd half 2002	1st half 2003
Commodity and service group					
All items	180.4	183.2	185.7	2.9	1.4
Commodities	151.5	154.3	155.3	2.5	0.6
Commodities less food and beverages	136.2	139.4	139.5	2.4	0.1
Nondurables less food and beverages	144.8	150.0	151.6	4.7	1.1
Durables	124.1	123.7	121.5	-2.1	-1.8
Services	205.6	208.4	212.1	3.2	1.8
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	176.2	178.9	181.4	3.0	1.4
All items less shelter	174.7	177.8	179.3	2.6	0.8
Commodities less food	138.0	141.3	141.6	2.6	0.2
Nondurables	159.5	163.2	165.1	3.5	1.2
Nondurables less food	146.9	152.2	153.9	4.8	1.1
Services less rent of shelter ²	220.0	223.3	225.7	2.6	1.1
Services less medical care services	200.6	203.5	207.4	3.4	1.9
Energy	132.0	145.8	148.1	12.2	1.6
All items less energy	185.5	187.3	189.9	2.4	1.4
All items less food and energy	189.4	191.3	193.9	2.4	1.4

¹ Includes Honolulu County only.

² Index is on a November 1982=100 base.

³ Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

⁴ Indexes on a December 1994=100 base.

⁵ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.